Glenrock Buffalo Jump
Mary Hopkins, State Historic Preservation Officer

On Sunday, April 11th, 2010, members of the Wyoming Archaeological Society gathered for a guided tour of the Glenrock Buffalo Jump, led by noted geoarchaeologist John Albanese, along with Evelyn Albanese, and Mavis and John Greer of the Casper Chapter of the society. John and Evelyn Albanese were some of the members of the society who formally recorded the site in 1968 and then reported it to Dr. George Frison of the University of Wyoming. In 1970, Frison conducted excavations under a National Science Foundation grant. The University of Wyoming’s Dr. Charles Reher, who was a member of the 1970 excavation team, also attended the field trip and helped point out the drive lines, associated stone circles, and bone bed. Late prehistoric bison procurement (approximately 1500 BP to 300 BP), the topographic and geologic setting, and the importance of the site in understanding Native America life ways were discussed.

The majority of bison kill sites in Wyoming are of the arroyo trap or pound types, but the Glenrock site represents a spectacular example of how Native Americans combined a knowledge of natural landforms and animal behavior to drive bison over a blind cliff. In order to guide the bison towards the cliff, Native Americans first had to work communally to drive the bison from pastures along the North Platte River.
Glenrock Buffalo Jump continued ...

A stone circle associated with the Glenrock Buffalo Jump.

...and Deer Creek. The bison were eventually driven over the cliff and ultimately butchered and processed into food, clothing, and shelter.

Each year, the Wyoming Archaeological Society holds an annual spring meeting. The meeting is held in a different community each year so that each chapter may host and showcase the archaeological resources in the area. Generally, and if the weather cooperates, the society sponsors a field trip on Sunday morning after the business meeting, contributed papers, and banquet have concluded the previous day. This year’s field trip was particularly enjoyable. After a long winter, it was very pleasant to get out into the countryside on a beautiful day to visit an interesting and spectacular site. If anyone is interested in attending the annual meeting, or better yet, joining the Wyoming Archaeological Society, please visit their newly revised website at: http://www.wyomingarchaeology.org

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Wyoming SHPO Luna Database

Ashley Rooney, Wyoming State Historical Society Liaison

Since 2008, Ashley Rooney (SHPO Intern) and Natalya Lenz (SHPO Administrative Assistant) have been scanning and digitizing current and historic photographs in the State Historic Preservation Office’s (SHPO) collection. The SHPO office is scanning photographs in association with the National Register program and making them available online through the Luna Imaging, Inc. software program. Many of these photographs were taken by present and former SHPO staff members and represent some of the most important historic resources in Wyoming. Currently 4,700 of the 16,000+ images have been digitized and are available to the public.

Luna Imaging, Inc. is an online database that allows for sharing of, and access to high-resolution images and their corresponding data. State agencies, schools, libraries, and the public can access these digitized images for personal or professional use. Luna is a great tool for research and public education because of its easy access and availability. The Wyoming State Archives and the University of Wyoming American Heritage Center also use Luna to digitize their images.

Rooney and Lenz have been involved in several scanning projects, most recently in compiling photographs for the State of Wyoming’s Historic Schools Context and Ranching and Homesteading Context from 1860-1960. Websites being developed that will feature the research documents and their associated photos from the SHPO office.

To access SHPO’s Luna Database, go to the Wyoming State Archives website at: http://wyoarchives.state.wy.us and select the “Online Historical Photograph Collection” icon on the left-hand side of the page. Select the “click here” option and enter the username and password, both of which is the lowercase word: public. Once into the Luna program, choose the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office Photo collection using the drop-down menu and you can search through the 4,700 images currently available. For more information on the SHPO’s photograph collection, please contact Rooney at 307-777-7566 or Lenz at 307-777-6401.
Monuments and Markers Update

SHPO continues to work with the Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone to address existing and future interpretive signage on the Wind River Indian Reservation (WRIR). SHPO has created a Monuments and Markers Tribal Committee (MMTC) to oversee Monuments and Markers on the WRIR. The MMTC is pursuing a National Endowment for the Humanities Interpretive Planning grant. If awarded, this grant will fund an interpretive plan that will guide future interpretation efforts on the WRIR. On the morning of March 10, the Joint Business Council approved a resolution to have the Joint Tribal Transportation Department be the applicant for the grant.

Laura Nowlin, Monuments and Markers Program Coordinator, recently attended the Wyoming Department of Transportation Statewide Maintenance Foremen meeting. She presented information about the program, the new database, and installation procedures. This annual meeting is an excellent chance for SHPO to build relationships with WYDOT field personnel and to gain comments and suggestions for improving the Monuments and Markers program.

The Monuments and Markers Advisory Committee met Thursday, April 22 to review applications for new Historic Mine Trails and Byways, interpretive signage, and text changes to replacement signage. The following signs were approved:

- **Tongue River Crossing** in Sheridan County
- **The Bridger Trail** in Park County
- **Fort McKinney** in Johnson County
- **Wind and Water in the Great Divide Basin** in Sweetwater County

This will be the second official Byway under this program. The Goldflakes to Yellow Cake Mine Byway, from Waltman to South Pass City is the first.

FORT MCKINNEY

First known as Cantonment Reno, Fort McKinney was established in 1876 on the Powder River near present-day Kaycee. In 1877, the Fort was renamed for Lieutenant John McKinney, who died during the Dull Knife Battle in 1876.

The Fort’s presence directly violated the 1851 and 1868 Fort Laramie Treaties. The Army determined the original site to be unsanitary and moved the Fort 45 miles north, to its current location south of here along Clear Creek in 1878. From here, the Army monitored the Sioux and Cheyenne activities, kept the peace between the Arapaho, Shoshone, and Crow, and protected the settlers moving into the Powder River Basin.

Here, Fort McKinney had 14 officers’ quarters, known as “The Line,” barracks for up to seven companies (approximately 1,400 men), laundresses’ quarters, offices, a hospital, a bakery, storehouses, stables, and auxiliary buildings. Of the original fort buildings, only the hospital remains.

During the Johnson County War of 1892, President Benjamin Harrison ordered Fort McKinney troops to end the fighting between the cattle barons and small landowners. Troops escorted the cattlemen and their hired Texas gunmen to the Fort for their own safety. Until it closed in 1894, Fort McKinney supplied the dominant economic stimulus for the nearby town of Buffalo. The Army deeded the land to the State of Wyoming in 1894, and in 1903, it became the Wyoming Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Home. Today it serves as the Veterans’ Home of Wyoming.

HORSESHOE CREEK STATION

During the 1850’s and 1860’s, wagon freighters fed and watered mules and oxen, exchanged tired stagecoach horses for fresh ones, and conducted other tasks at the historic Horseshoe Creek Station near here. A nearly endless stream of emigrants from the eastern United States and from around the world stopped at the Station.

Leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints realized the importance of a dependable rail and passenger service. The Church-operated Brigham Young Express and Carrying Company (BYX) constructed a station complex in 1856, beginning a new community.

Tensions between the U.S. government and the Church reached a point that in 1857 a U.S. Army expedition was mounted to replace Utah Territorial Governor Brigham Young. While accounts of the event vary, the Horseshoe Creek Station site fell victim to the violence and was set ablaze. In August, 1857 BYX disbanded its stations between Fort Laramie and Salt Lake City.

The station complex was later rebuilt and other operators, including the short-lived Pony Express, used the station for several years. In December 1866 John “Portugee” Phillips stopped at the Horseshoe Creek Station during his legendary 235-mile ride through a blizzard from Fort Phil Kearney to Fort Laramie to telegraph the military that troops were surrounded by hostile Sioux and Cheyenne warriors and needed assistance.

**Basin in Sweetwater County**
- **Horseshoe Creek Stage Station** in Platte County

The Salt Creek Oilfield Byway was also approved which is part of the Wyoming Mine/Byway program.
On June 1, 2010, the Archaeological Survey will begin a large scale data recovery excavation at the Game Creek site (48TE1573) in southern Jackson Hole that will span the entire summer. This is the first of at least two summers of archaeological excavations along the highly visible, southern route into Jackson, where thousands of tourists and residents pass by daily. Because of the location and the site’s archaeological contents, the excavations are likely to generate a lot of local and regional interest, and publicity.

The excavations are designed to mitigate impacts from the proposed expansion of US Highway 191 by the Wyoming Department of Transportation, which will be providing the funding. Over the two plus year period, upwards of 300 square meters may be excavated, which is the equivalent to the footprint of a moderate size house! Between 10 and 15 people will be working at the site, most of whom will be anthropology students from the University of Wyoming and Central Wyoming Community College.

The site was initially discovered by Dan Eakin (OWSA) in 2001 and later subjected to preliminary test excavations in 2002 and 2003. These excavations revealed a series of buried cultural levels that resulted from intermittent Native American occupations over the past 10,000 years. Artifacts recovered during the preliminary excavations include projectile points, other chipped stone tools and flakes, a grinding slab or metate, butchered animal bone, and a fire hearths. Identified animal bone fragments include those from bison, elk, canid (dog/coyote/wolf), and beaver. Other medium-size mammal bones were found which fall in general size category of deer, pronghorn antelope, and bighorn sheep. Of particular interest is the presence of multiple levels that range in age from 8,000 to 10,000 years old and are within the mid to late portions of Dr. George Frison’s Paleoindian cultural period.

Very few archaeological sites within Jackson Hole have been subject to archaeological excavation and even fewer contain multiple, buried cultural levels like these found at the Game Creek site. The excavations will hopefully provide new insights into the prehistoric occupation of this area and the wider Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Some of the research topics that will be explored include examining changes in the past environmental conditions and climate, food selection preferences of the local Native American occupants over time, and whether these relate to changes in climate. Changes in the selection of stone tool raw material types and how these might reflect the movements of prehistoric peoples into and out of the Jackson Hole area through time will be researched. If some of the animal bone can be identified as pronghorn antelope, we may be able to firmly establish the antiquity of the annual pronghorn antelope migration that proceeds from the Upper Green River Basin over the Gros Ventre Mountains and into Jackson Hole. Should the site provide as much archaeological information as we suspect, this site could be destined to become a key site in the interpretation of Wyoming’s prehistory. Since it is located near one of the most visited locales in Wyoming, it could also become one of the most well known.
Between 1975 and 1978, portions of seven individual mammoths were recovered during archaeological excavations at the Colby Mammoth Kill site near Worland. This number of individual animals makes this site one of the largest mammoth kill sites known (to date) in North America. Following completion of the analyses of the bones and publication of a book detailing the excavations and analysis by Dr. George C. Frison, Professor Emeritus at the University of Wyoming Anthropology Department and Wyoming’s First State Archaeologist, many of the bones from the animals were taken to Worland and placed on display at the Washakie Museum. In 2005, Dr. Frison, Dr. Danny N. Walker, Assistant State Archaeologist and Martha Rogers, curator of the University of Wyoming Archaeological Repository, traveled to Worland and assisted in re-curation of the bone and placement of the material in a new display room at the museum. Since then, the Washakie County community has funded and constructed a new museum building with a grand opening to be celebrated on May 14th, 2010. Archaeological interpretation is a major component of the new displays in this state of the art museum. In March, Dr. Walker again traveled to Worland and assisted the museum in transporting the fossil bones from the old museum building to the new display as part of their permanent exhibit on the archaeology of the Bighorn Basin. The Colby site mammoth bone is the keystone display in the archaeology room. The Washakie Museum cordially invites everyone to stop and spend time in the new facility.
During the summer of 2009, OWSA, in partnership with Yellowstone National Park, the Yellowstone Park Foundation, and the University of Wyoming, completed the second season of a three year project to identify and record archaeological sites along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT) that are related to the Nez Perce War of 1877. The project was initiated by the Yellowstone Center for Resources not only with the goal of identifying Nez Perce War related sites, but to also gain a better understanding of the type and distribution of archaeological sites in the general vicinity of the NPNHT corridor so that sections of the trail currently experiencing increased public use can be more effectively managed.

The 2009 season consisted of four sessions in as many study areas, all of which were in the Yellowstone backcountry. The study areas were located on upper Nez Perce Creek, in the southern Hayden Valley between Alum and Trout creeks, on Pelican, Raven and Mist creeks, and on the upper Lamar River between the mouths of Timothy Creek and the Little Lamar River. In all, twenty-seven prehistoric and historic sites were identified and recorded. As in the first year of the project, logistical support such as horse packing and access to back country patrol cabins, was provided by Yellowstone National Park. Crewmembers included Julie Eakin, Will Hollingberry, and Andrew Woodhouse. Volunteers included Ray Kunselman and Bill Eckerle.

Investigations at the Nez Perce Council/Howard Bivouac

One of the successes of the 2009 investigations was the identification of the Nez Perce Council/Howard Bivouac site. This site - as its name implies - was the scene of two important events during the Nez Perce War in Yellowstone, and involved the Nez Perce, a group of unfortunate tourists, as well as the U.S. Army. It all started in the Lower Geyser Basin at around sunrise on August 24th, 1877, when some heavily armed Nez Perce warriors appeared in the camp of a tourist group - known as the Cowan party - from Radersburg, Montana. After a brief, though somewhat heated exchange, the Cowan party provided the warriors with some food and the warriors departed. Now on edge from their encounter, the tourists quickly broke camp and loaded up their two wagons and started north in an attempt to leave the general area. Unbeknownst to them, the main body of Nez Perce warriors appeared in the camp of a tourist group - known as the Cowan party - from Radersburg, Montana. After a brief, though somewhat heated exchange, the Cowan party provided the warriors with some food and the warriors departed. Now on edge from their encounter, the tourists quickly broke camp and loaded up their two wagons and started north in an attempt to leave the general area. Unbeknownst to them, the main body of Nez Perce Indians - some 700-800 people and 1,500-2000 horses- had spent the previous night only a few miles north of the tourist’s camp near the mouth of Tangled Creek. Within about a mile the Cowan party was again accosted by warriors, and under gunpoint, forced to abandon their wagons and accompany the main Nez Perce band up the East Fork of the Firehole River (now known as Nez Perce Creek). After about six miles the procession stopped for lunch and the Nez Perce held a council to decide what to do with the hostages. The Nez Perce leaders, although still enraged over the murder of women and children by the army only weeks before at the Battle of the Big Hole in Montana, elected to free them if the tourists agreed to surrender their guns and horses. After gaining their freedom, and a little over a mile from the council site, the tourists, now afoot, were again accosted by warriors and forced to return to the council grounds. At this time several of the party escaped by running into the forest. By the time the remaining tourists arrived back at the council area, the main procession had continued east, which opened the door for several warriors, probably intent on revenge, to kill members of the party. George Cowan was shot several times, once in the head at point-blank range, and another man was shot in the face; both were left for dead, but both ultimately survived. The remaining tourists (Cowan’s wife, Emma, her sister Ida, and her brother, Frank Carpenter) were again taken, but released the next day after the Nez Perce crossed the Yellowstone River.

About a week later, on the night of August 31st, 1877, pursuing military forces under the command of General O. O. Howard arrived.
in the area and bivouacked near the council ground for the night. The main army contingent moved out the next morning. They left the wagon train, teamsters, and laborers behind because a road would first have to be built over Mary Mountain for the passage of wagons. This group of teamsters and laborers – known as Spurgin’s Skillets – were under the command of Captain William F. Spurgin, Twenty-First Infantry, and remained in the area for several days until the road, known today as the Howard Road, was constructed.

OWSA conducted investigations at the site for only a few days in 2009. Numerous artifacts, including period food cans, hardware, and horse trappings were found. Rifle cartridges include an early experimental .50-70 government case manufactured by the Union Metallic Cartridge Company, and two .45-70 government cartridge cases manufactured at the Frankford Arsenal between January 1874 and March 1875. By 1877 all the regular army troops had been issued the Model 1873 Springfield Trapdoor, but earlier model 1868 and 1870 Springfield and Sharps carbines (all chambered for the .50-70 government) continued to be issued to militia units. One cartridge case fragment and several loaded cartridges for the Model 1873 Colt Single Action Army were also recovered. One artifact of note is a hand forged tent stake that may have been used with a Sibley or standard army wall tent. The specimen compares favorably to others housed at the Fort Laramie National Historic Site that are of an Indian War Period context. One unique, though seemingly out of place 1874 Straits Settlements ten-cent piece was also found. The Straits Settlements were a British Crown Colony in what is now the south Asian region including Malaysia, Borneo and Singapore. It is unknown how this coin was incorporated into the artifact collection from a Nez Perce/U.S. Army bivouac site in a remote area of Yellowstone National Park.

Above is a photograph taken in 1922 of Henry Buck, a member of the civilian unit known as “Spurgin’s Skillets” who accompanied Howard’s army during the Nez Perce War of 1877. Buck is standing beside a sign erected in 1903 by Hiram Chittenden commemorating the Nez Perce council that decided the fate of the Radersburg tourists. The sign reads:

On this spot (August 24, 1877) the Nez Perce Chiefs held a council to decide the fate of the Cowan Party who had been captured that morning in the Lower Geyser Basin. The party was released, but afterwards recaptured, taken back about a half mile east of the council ground and there attacked by the Indians. Cowan was left for dead, Carpenter and the two ladies were taken along as prisoners, and the rest escaped.

Nineteenth Century Native American campsite

Another notable historic site, though not one associated with the Nez Perce War, was found in a large meadow on the upper Lamar River. The site yielded several historic artifacts indicating it was a nineteenth century Native American camp. Historic Native American artifacts Continued on page 8...
campsites are relatively rare in the region, with only a few known from Yellowstone National Park. A number of historic tribal groups did occupy the area and include the Shoshone and Sheep Eater bands, Crow, Blackfoot and Nez Perce. Among the artifacts were several sheet iron fragments possessing edges suggestive of having been cut with a chisel. These may represent scrap produced during the manufacture process of arrowheads or some other implement. Other artifacts include a length of barrel from a .40-.41 caliber muzzle-loading rifle, half of a .45 caliber round ball mold, two hide flesher bits, and an unidentified machined object. Additional investigations at the site could provide more concise aging brackets, as well as additional information regarding Native American metalworking and regional trade.

Selected artifacts from Native American site on upper Lamar River; Top row, left to right: six sheet iron fragments believed cut with a chisel, bullet mold; Center: section of muzzle loading rifle barrel; Bottom: hide flesher bit fragment, complete hide flesher bit, unknown object.

2010 Field Season
Planning for the 2010 field season is underway and several areas of Yellowstone will be explored. This includes a search for the Cowan party’s wagons on lower Nez Perce Creek, additional investigation of the Nez Perce Council/Howard Bivouac, and attempts to locate Nez Perce camps in Hayden Valley, the Mirror Plateau, middle portions of the Lamar River Valley, and the main fork of the Yellowstone River near what is today known as Nez Perce Ford.

Digitization, Records Management, and Oral History Workshop

On Saturday, March 27, 2010 Historical Society Liaison, Ashley Rooney and Reference Archivist, Cindy Brown conducted a Digitization, Records Management, and Oral History Workshop in Kemmerer, Wyoming. Twelve people attended the workshop from five Wyoming communities, including Cokeville, Afton, Kemmerer, Ft. Bridger and Rock Springs. All but one of the participants was associated with a chapter of the Wyoming State Historical Society. Participants learned the benefits of digitization, scanning practices, and digitization standards. The records management portion of the workshop covered the value of maintaining records, cataloging standards, and storage issues such as temperature and humidity. The oral history segment of the workshop reviewed the importance of oral histories, sample interview questions, how to conduct an interview, donor release forms, interview “do’s and don’ts”, and equipment usage. This workshop was conducted through the use of a State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) grant. This is the second workshop conducted by Rooney and Brown across the state, the first being in Powell, Wyoming in September of 2009. Participants of both workshops were associated with museums, archives, historic sites, genealogical and historical associations. If you or your community is interested in a workshop of this kind, please contact Rooney at 307-777-7566.
The recent passing of David Reiss, a 30+ year archaeologist with the Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist, last November was an untimely and unfortunate event. Through the generosity of Dave’s brother’s family, other relatives, and friends, it was decided to commemorate Dave’s life by establishing an annual memorial scholarship through the Wyoming Archeological Society. The Wyoming Archeological Society already has other scholarship funds, but none that are solely focused on Wyoming’s community colleges, where many are building anthropology programs. In this regard, the David Reiss Community College Memorial Scholarship was established and announced at the annual spring meeting of the Wyoming Archaeological Society held in Casper on April 10, 2010. Two $500 scholarships were awarded during this spring meeting to Michael O’Toole (Laramie County Community College) and Kipp Sterling (Casper Community College).

The scholarships are based on promoting or assisting the student’s research projects or training in the fields of anthropology, archaeology, history or western studies. Wyoming’s community colleges are building programs in these fields and it was important that these programs and their students are recognized for their efforts. Some of these efforts are already evident in the fact that community college students presented six of the fifteen papers at the Wyoming Archaeological Society’s spring meeting. Consequently, the David Reiss Memorial Scholarship helps to build and foster the partnership between the community colleges and the Wyoming Archaeological Society and their many chapters across the state. As many of these students eventually attend the University of Wyoming, the university will also benefit from this partnership. Applications for the next memorial scholarship to be awarded in the spring of 2011 will be available on the Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologist/Wyoming Archaeological Society website: www.wyomingarchaeology.org.

Questions concerning the scholarship or supporting it and other Wyoming Archaeological Society activities through tax-free donations, or general question about the Wyoming Archaeological Society, please contact:

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On May 14-15 the State Historic Preservation Office held its 2010 Preserve Wyoming Conference in Evanston, Wyoming. Over 100 participants enjoyed networking opportunities, panel discussions and tours at this year’s event. An Awards Banquet was held the evening of May 14, with three people and one organization being recognized for their outstanding achievements in historic preservation in Wyoming. The 2010 Preserve Wyoming Award Winners were: Carolyn Buff, Casper; Clint Gilchrist, Pinedale; Dave Reetz, Powell; and the Fort Bridger Historical Association, Fort Bridger. Preserve Wyoming Award winners exemplify substantial and long-term commitment to cultural resource protection, public interpretation of Wyoming history or prehistory, historic sites care and maintenance, and/or sympathetic adaptive reuse of a building or structure. This is a competitive process with nominations being received statewide. For more information on the Preserve Wyoming Awards, please contact Mary Hopkins, State Historic Preservation Officer, at 307-777-6311 or 307-766-5324.